



Cook County JTDC Advisory Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2019 12:00pm-1:30pm

69 West Washington, 22nd Floor, Conference Room C

Participants: Esther Franco Payne, Jonah Newman, Amanda Klonsky, Delrice Adams, Rebecca Janowitz, Sandra Wortham, Dr. Dakeda Horton, Marjorie B. Moss, Darrius Ballinger, Meade Palidofsky, Debra Vines, Shay Robinson

I. Welcome and Overview

II. Conversation with Jonah Newman

- a. Background of Article (<https://www.chicagoreporter.com/solitary-confinement-of-juveniles-on-the-rise-in-cook-county/>)
 - i. The article started as a reflection on the lack of transparency at the JTDC.
 - ii. Jonah filed a request with the Office of the Chief Judge through Pat Milhizer and received information on room confinements after notifying Pat that he would be writing an article on the lack of transparency.
 1. Received 2.5 years of data (starting in 2015) and the report from Children's Law and Policy
 2. Jonah separated out the data by punitive confinements.
 - iii. Interviews were held with Superintendent Leonard Dixon, General Council Zenaida Alonzo, and youth selected by the Superintendent
 1. Note that the youth selected were on level 4 and may have had limited experience with room confinement as compared to the general population
 - iv. Other Concerns Noted by the Group:
 1. Youth held at the JTDC on DCFS holds
 - a. Status hearings held weekly
 - b. This population has declined to ~5-10 kids per day (may be even lower)
- b. Recommended Next Steps
 - i. Request data on room confinements for all of 2018 via written request to Pat Milhizer at OCJ
 - ii. Identify key indicators from the JTDC Strategic Plan 2017-2020 and request data on those indicators to determine the status of the plan
 - iii. Obtain data on how quickly and often the same kids are cycling in and out of the JTDC
 1. JDAI data from Avik Das
 2. CPS data (re-enrollments into Nancy B. Jefferson)



3. May be a recommendation in the report to track this as a key indicator

iv. Learn how MH policies and practices have changed

1. Dr. Brian Conant is invited to the next JTDC Advisory Board Meeting.

v. Request meetings with Director of Juvenile Probation Avik Das, DED of RDL William Steward, ED of CCLP Mark Soler, Dr. Brian Conant

III. Working Group Updates

a. "During"-Meade, Amanda, Marjorie, Dr. Horton

i. The group has started to develop a work plan, identify key questions, and collect helpful materials. The group is focusing on trauma that youth may endure during their stay at the JTDC, particularly as a result of disciplinary practices.

ii. Meade was able to get a copy of IDJJ's youth manual. Marjorie received a copy of the JTDC's youth manual and disciplinary policies. Dr. Horton has copies of the assessments that are completed with youth at the JTDC.

iii. The team will be reaching out to orgs and youth to discuss their experiences.

1. Free Write is happy to connect the group with impacted youth. We may consider doing a focus group with identified youth.

2. Circles and Ciphers should also be considered as a resource to connect with impacted youth.

3. It would be powerful to include audio with the young people to balance the report.

b. "Before"-Sandra

i. Sandra is trying to paint a picture of the experiences of youth coming into the JTDC.

ii. Sandra will send the links that were provided by Esther with background information.

iii. Sandra will also consider the ACES study and Linda Teplin's report on the JTDC in her research.

c. "Re-Entry"-Darrius and Debra

i. The group is identifying stakeholders in youth re-entry. They will focus on the traumatic impact of a stay at JTDC on re-entry and care coordination.

ii. An interview was completed with P.O. Vargas of Juvenile Intensive Probation.

IV. Detailing Next Steps on Action Plan and Planning for Next Meeting

a. Savannah and Ali will invite Avik Das and Dr. Brian Conant to the next JTDC Advisory Board Meeting.

b. Ali will send out guiding documents: structure, updated work plan, and goals.



- c. Marjorie will complete the first draft of the OCJ data request within 2 weeks. The “during” team will coordinate the completion of the draft. The final request will be complete and sent within a month.
- d. Savannah will send out the notes for the meeting.
- e. The “during” team will coordinate with the “re-entry” team to connect with impacted youth.
- f. Sandra will send the links that were provided by Esther with background information on youth entering the JTDC.
- g. Report Timeline: Recommendations Due in August and Draft Report Due in October
- h. Please share notes/resources with Savannah and Ali as you complete interviews or collect information.

V. New Business

- a. None

VI. Public Comments

- a. None

VII. Adjourn

- a. The next JTDC Advisory Board meeting will be held on June 5, 2019 from 12:00pm-1:30pm.